

House Resolution 575

By: Representatives Mangham of the 94th and Williams of the 89th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Ms. Sabrina McKenzie and the GIFT program; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Sabrina McKenzie founded the Getting Inside Finding Truth (GIFT)
4 program to promote performing arts in public schools; and

5 WHEREAS, GIFT provides students from DeKalb, Clayton, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties
6 access to the mentorship, funding, and resources to allow them to thrive with exposure to
7 performing arts programs; and

8 WHEREAS, launched in 2008 at the Dancing Preachers International Conference, GIFT
9 aims to provide students with a well rounded education by enhancing arts programs currently
10 in place in some public schools, exposing students to various genres of the art world,
11 organizing field trips to art events, and matching local artists with students to provide
12 coaching and advice; and

13 WHEREAS, students who participate in the arts are more likely to be elected to a student
14 leadership position, compete in math and science fairs, attend school regularly, and give back
15 to their neighbors through community service; and

16 WHEREAS, arts education has been proven to stimulate students' developmental growth,
17 break down socioeconomic boundaries, deter delinquency and truancy, and increase overall
18 academic performance; and

19 WHEREAS, despite the important and lasting impact exposure to the arts has upon students,
20 funding for the arts in public schools is not ranked as a high priority, and the GIFT program
21 has made great strides to correct this inequity.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body commend Ms. Sabrina McKenzie for her foresight and dedication
24 to the students of Georgia with her creation of the GIFT program and wish continued success
25 for the program.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
27 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Sabrina McKenzie.